

more preferably less than 420 minutes, most preferably less than 400 minutes for yogurts having a protein content of more than 4.0%.

[0017] Preferred compositions to be used in the process of the invention are the following.

[0018] Compositions comprising at least 1 strain from the group consisting of strain A and strain B and strain C and strain D.

[0019] 1. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain A.

[0020] 2. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain A and a *Lactobacillus delbrueckii* ssp. *bulgaricus* preferably strain E.

[0021] 3. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain B.

[0022] 4. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain B and a *Lactobacillus delbrueckii* ssp. *bulgaricus* preferably strain E.

[0023] 5. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain C.

[0024] 6. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain C and a *Lactobacillus delbrueckii* ssp. *bulgaricus* preferably strain E.

[0025] 7. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain D.

[0026] 8. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain D and a *Lactobacillus delbrueckii* ssp. *bulgaricus* preferably strain E.

[0027] Compositions comprising at least 2 strains from the group consisting of strain A and strain B and strain C and strain D.

[0028] 9. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain A and strain B

[0029] 10. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain A and strain B and a *Lactobacillus delbrueckii* ssp. *bulgaricus* preferably strain E.

[0030] 11. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain A and strain C

[0031] 12. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain A and strain C and a *Lactobacillus delbrueckii* ssp. *bulgaricus* preferably strain E.

[0032] 13. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain A and strain D.

[0033] 14. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain A and strain D and a *Lactobacillus delbrueckii* ssp. *bulgaricus* preferably strain E.

[0034] 15. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain B and strain C

[0035] 16. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain B and strain C and a *Lactobacillus delbrueckii* ssp. *bulgaricus* preferably strain E.

[0036] 17. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain B and strain D.

[0037] 18. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain B and strain D and a *Lactobacillus delbrueckii* ssp. *bulgaricus* preferably strain E.

[0038] 19. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain C and strain D

[0039] 20. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain C and strain D and a *Lactobacillus delbrueckii* ssp. *bulgaricus* preferably strain E.

[0040] Compositions comprising at least 3 strains from the group consisting of strain A and strain B and strain C and strain D.

[0041] 21. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain A and strain B and strain C.

[0042] 22. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain A and strain B and strain C and a *Lactobacillus delbrueckii* ssp. *bulgaricus* preferably strain E.

[0043] 23. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain A and strain B and strain D.

[0044] 24. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain A and strain B and strain D and a *Lactobacillus delbrueckii* ssp. *bulgaricus* preferably strain E.

[0045] 25. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain B and strain C and strain D.

[0046] 26. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain B and strain C and strain D and a *Lactobacillus delbrueckii* ssp. *bulgaricus* preferably strain E.

[0047] 27. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain A and strain C and strain D.

[0048] 28. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain A and strain C and strain D and a *Lactobacillus delbrueckii* ssp. *bulgaricus* preferably strain E.

[0049] Compositions comprising at least 4 strains from the group consisting of strain A and strain B and strain C and strain D.

[0050] 29. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain A and strain B and strain C and strain D.

[0051] 30. Composition comprising at least *Streptococcus thermophilus* strain A and strain B and strain C and strain D and a *Lactobacillus delbrueckii* ssp. *bulgaricus* preferably strain E.

[0052] 31. Composition ABCDE as defined in Table 2.

[0053] 32. Composition AE as defined in Table 2.

[0054] 33. Composition BE as defined in Table 2.

[0055] 34. Composition CE as defined in Table 2.

[0056] 35. Composition DE as defined in Table 2.

[0057] 36. Composition BDE as defined in Table 2.

[0058] 37. Composition BD as defined in Table 2.

[0059] Each of the 37 compositions listed above may encompass different embodiments depending on the amount of the strains present in the composition. The individual strains in the compositions may constitute any suitable percentage of the total cfu's (colony forming units) in the compositions. In the composition comprising only one of the strains A, B, C and D, these strains may constitute 100% of the cfu's.

[0060] Each of the 37 compositions may however, comprise further other lactic acid bacterial strains. In those compositions, the total cfu's relates not only to the strains A and/or B and/or C and/or D and/or E present in the composition but also to the other bacterial strains present in the compositions. The composition may further comprise other lactic acid bacterial strains as defined hereinbefore such as one or more lactic acid bacterial strains selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus* spp., *Bifidobacterium* spp., *Streptococcus* spp., *Lactococcus* spp., such as *Lactobacillus delbrueckii* subsp. *bulgaricus*, *Streptococcus salivarius thermophilus* or *Streptococcus thermophilus*, *Lactobacillus lactis*, *Bifidobacterium animalis*, *Lactococcus lactis*, *Lactobacillus casei*, *Lactobacillus plantarum*, *Lactobacillus helveticus*, *Lactobacillus acidophilus* and *Bifido-*